



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

# MISSION

*The Barbados Environment Conservation Trust is a Registered Charity established in 2019. Our vision is that through supporting local initiatives aimed at environmental sustainability, Barbados will attain its targets in national development.*

# OUR APPROACH

Barbados has had a long history of government support and local civil society activism towards environmental initiatives. However, many of these organizations lack sustainable funding opportunities. The Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust seeks to provide this support for civil society in Barbados to be able to execute and amplify the work they have been doing.

We strongly believe that supporting local resources can make a strong positive impact and bring about serious long-lasting change!

To do so, we raise money from people all over the world, as well as from local individuals and businesses that care and rely on the future of Barbados. We ensure funds are directed appropriately and are dedicated to supporting the most effective environmental projects and campaigns. We support organizations, experts, individuals and associations already present in Barbados, who are working to protect and restore the natural environment and trying to influence both policy and practice.

Our funding is flexible, independent and long term.





# CONTENT ■

- 2. **Message from the Steering Committee**
- 3. **Message from the Executive Director**
- 4. **A Year In Review**
- 5. **Our Projects 2019 - 2020**
- 9. **Looking Forward**

# WHO WE ARE ■



Neysha Soodeen  
Co-founder, Chairman, Trustee



Ben Goldsmith  
Co-founder, Steering Committee



Andrew C Ferriera QC  
Trustee



Giles Carmichael  
Trustee, Steering Committee



Anna Gavazzi  
Steering Committee



Doug Luke  
Steering Committee



Jade Brudenell,  
Executive Director Conservative Collective



Charlotte Hungerford  
Steering Committee



Maria Bourne Nadur  
Steering Committee

## MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE ■

For many years various groups across the island of Barbados have worked tirelessly to save and enhance our natural environment both on land and in our seas. This beautiful island is not short of experts, innovators and passionate activists who believe in the preservation and protection of our country's natural resources. However, the continued challenge of these groups and individuals has been consistent easily accessible funding to help enhance the impact of their work. In 2018, when we started conceptualizing the addition of the Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust, we saw that the timing was right. There was a local emergence of new and energetic groups excited to get started as well as a restructuring of seasoned organizations to respond to the new realities. Additionally, there was a resurgence of governmental support specifically for the environment which made us believe that projects we supported locally would become part of a national strategy and hence be more sustainable in the long term.

With one year now under our belt, we are ready to move into a second year to support more initiatives and build on those existing projects.



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ■

The evolution of the Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust has been a great journey over the last year. I have had the privilege of being the founding Executive Director, which meant with the support of our Steering Committee, I had the opportunity to create a vision for our fledgling organization. Albeit in our infancy, I believe the impact BECT can make as an organization in boosting the capacity of local organizations can be truly transformational for the island. We are also fortunate as a Trust to be part of the Conservation Collective that provides a global network of passionate, like minded groups working to solve similar issues within their local context. In everything we do we use a collective approach of dreaming global through acting local. The Conservation Collective provides connections to global expertise, funding and examples of best practice and knowledge transfer for environmental solutions.

Despite the second half of our first year being impacted by COVID-19, the BECT has remained operational and growing. To this end, we would like to thank our local partner organizations who have continued to put their innovations and ideas, which you will read more about in this report, into action. Additionally, I would like to thank our steering committee who have dedicated their time and expertise to gaining an in-depth understanding of our projects and mobilising resources for the BECT through their networks of fellow Barbados-lovers.

Finally, we would like to thank our donors; despite being a new Trust, they have believed in and supported our vision of empowering local initiatives and communities here in Barbados. We look forward to their continued support and to building on the groundwork that we have started in our first year.



**Tamaisha Eytle**  
Executive Director

# A YEAR IN REVIEW ■

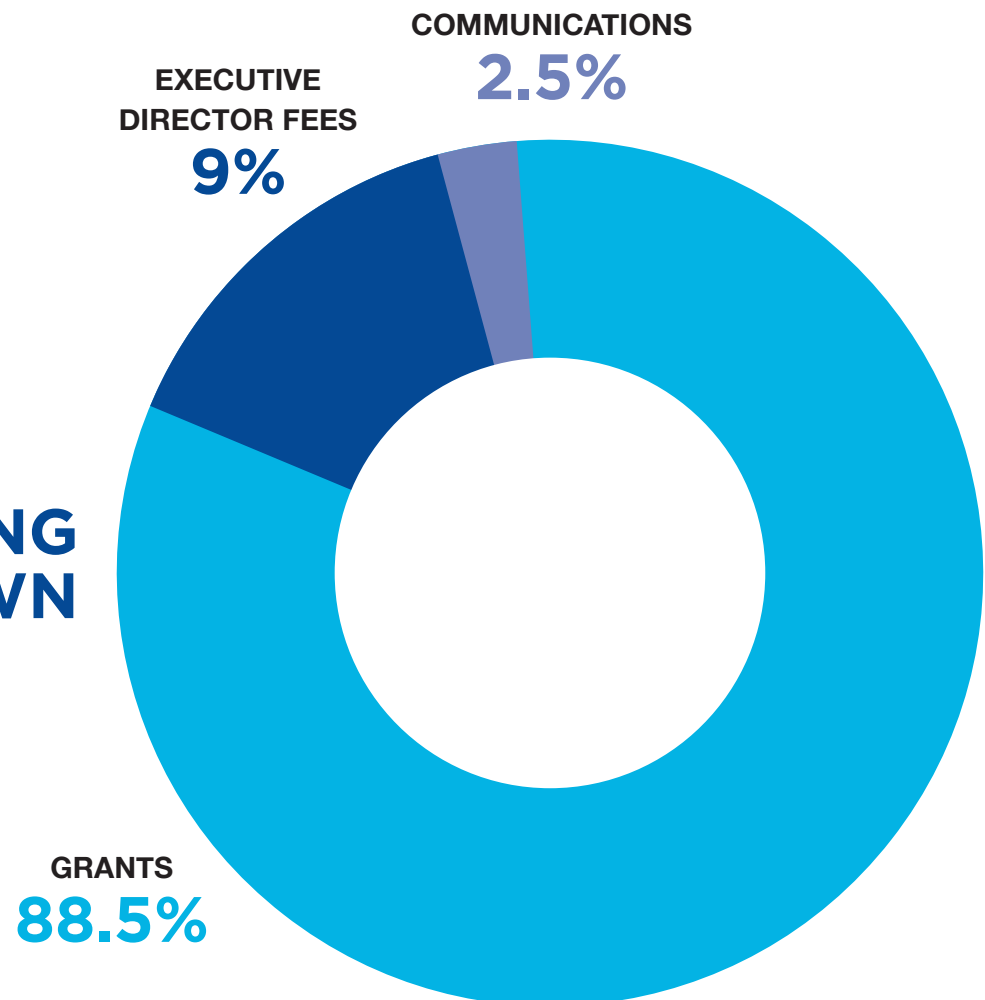
**USD \$104,279.73**  
**FUNDS RAISED**

**27**  
**DONORS**

**4**  
**PROJECTS FUNDED**

**104%**

**FUNDING  
BREAKDOWN**



# OUR PROJECTS



## FUTURE FARMERS BARBADOS

Food security is crucial to not only national health and wellness but towards economic stability. Barbados currently imports USD \$325 million in food, accounting for approximately 90% of all domestically consumed food. For many years, organizations have been working to boost local food production through the de-stigmatization of farming and fishing as viable livelihoods and bringing awareness to the importance of supporting this essential service to our local economy. The BECT has chosen to support the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) - Future Farmers programme as one of its first projects, as it seeks to boost both knowledge and awareness of local food, promote sustainable agriculture and inform policy to support the building of a local farming and fishing economic ecosystem.

Under this project, the new Future Farmers Barbados database and communications campaign has launched. At [www.futurefarmersbbb.org](http://www.futurefarmersbbb.org) and on the respective social media platforms, you can find your nearest youth farmer and learn more about their journey into farming!

The farmers profiled are successful graduates of a national Youth Farm Summer Programme, an eight-week intensive training opportunity in crop and animal farming with a focus on the production of diversified vegetables, root crops and herbs for local markets. The programme has been collaboratively offered by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development and the Barbados Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council since 2013. The Youth Farm has emphasized practical student learning in essential farming knowledge, as well as the development of farm management and business management skills. At the end of these programmes participants received NVQ/CVQ certification in either Crop Production Level 1, Livestock Rearing Level 1 or Aquaculture Grow Out Operations Level 1 from the TVET Council which are regionally accredited certifications to assure their quality of skills and knowledge. With the 2020 programme being on hiatus, IICA has used this opportunity to track graduates of the programmes and showcase their journey post the programme. Under the name FutureFarmersBB, IICA joins a regional effort to highlight agriculture as a viable career path for the next generation.

As part of this project a report on the Youth Farming landscape was also published to provide an update on the opportunities and challenges that exist for young farmers in the island. This report can be found on our website <https://barbadosenvironment.org/youth-agribusiness/>

We look forward to continuing to support youth farming in Barbados.  
Follow the programme at



Follow the programme at

 [futurefarmersbbb](https://www.facebook.com/futurefarmersbbb)

 [FutureFarmers BB](https://www.instagram.com/futurefarmersbbb)

[www.futurefarmersbbb.com](http://www.futurefarmersbbb.com)



Keriah Scantlebury

Crop & Livestock Farmer



Calvin Carrington

Crop & Livestock Farmer

As supermarkets and businesses across Barbados shut down during COVID-19, it demonstrated the need to enhance the visibility of organizations working towards safe and easy access for consumers to locally grown, fresh produce. FarmFinder Global came to us with a proposal to support the upgrading of their consumer interface - website and social media, to help inform the public about their Marketplace Home Delivery services but also about other work the organization has been doing globally.

FarmFinder specializes in project development and implementation support for initiatives aimed at helping the world take advantage of sharing knowledge and experiences in agriculture. Since our small contribution, FarmFinder has been able to leverage partnerships for larger agricultural programmes across the island.

### These include:

1. The acquisition of land to develop a programme to support the training and livelihood of members of the deaf community in agriculture.
2. The establishment of the Victory Gardens programme islandwide to promote household home gardening.

FarmFinder Global Inc. has recently been awarded “Most Innovative Farming Solutions” from London based international brands magazine Global Brands.

Follow the programme at

 FarmFinder Global

 FutureFarmers BB

[www.farmfinderglobal.org](http://www.farmfinderglobal.org)




#### CAPACITY BUILDING

FarmFinder is committed to expanding training opportunities in the global food and agriculture sector, as a way of ensuring that relevant skills and approaches are respectively transferred and adopted.



#### COLLABORATION

As a strong advocate of south-south and north-south cooperation, FarmFinder values the socio-economic gains to be made through joint initiatives between developed and lesser developed countries.



#### CONNECTIVITY

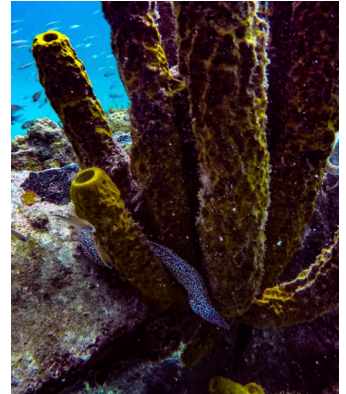
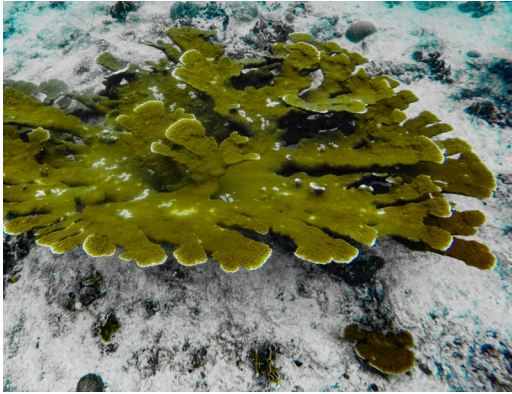
As FarmFinder expands, the barriers prohibiting communication and awareness of how various groups cope with and address issues, are decreased, thereby allowing easier, faster and more direct access among stakeholders in different countries.



# BIOROCK CORAL REGENERATION



BGI  
BLUEGREEN INITIATIVE INC.



Barbados is only 166.4 mi<sup>2</sup> but its natural resources expand way beyond the shores to the depths of the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean that surround the island. In such, the work of the Trust ensures we work in partnership with organizations focused on the protection of the marine space.

One of our flagship projects is supporting the island's first BioRock Coral installation project. This project in partnership with the BlueGreen Initiative and the Global Coral Reef Alliance has the potential to transform the coastline and protect marine life once successful.

## **In year 1 of the project the group has been able to:**

- Successfully Received Formal Town Planning Permission to proceed with the Biorock Installation at Sandy Lane on the west coast of Barbados.
- Purchased the necessary monitoring and installation equipment currently awaiting shipment to Barbados.
- Pre-installation in progress with the development of the Environmental Management Plan and Sediment Control Management Plan.
- Coral Reef Research Permit submitted to the Barbados CZMU and awaiting confirmation
- The arrival of experts from the Global Coral Reef Alliance has been delayed due to COVID-19

We look forward to seeing this project move to the next phase.



# BARBADOS SEA TURTLE PROJECT



At the beginning of 2020, the internationally renowned Barbados Sea Turtle Project lost its main funding leaving them in a crisis for the upcoming nesting season. The Project provides an essential service for the island, the turtles and hatchlings. The BECT was able to activate its network under a special fundraising campaign and raise funds to support and save the 2020 nesting and hatchling season.

The 2020 nesting season has been very active. The group receives over 20 calls daily reporting nests, distressed turtles and turtle tracks or sightings. With the additional support the group has been able to :

- Train new cohorts of volunteers for beach monitoring
- Purchase all necessary tracking equipment
- Rent a space close to the beach to be able to house equipment, distressed hatchlings and perform all operational administrative procedures

If you don't follow their updates on social media, it is highly recommended. Turtle season is full of both heartbreaking and heartwarming stories. Looking forward to the future, the final part of this initiative is to help develop a long term sustainability plan for the Barbados Sea Turtle Project. This organization plays an integral part in not only the protection of a species, but also public education for overall protection and care of the island's coastal and marine space. They work with homeowners, developers and government agencies to advocate for safe building and maintenance practices to protect and preserve nesting environments.

We look forward to continuing the sustainable development of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project



## LOOKING FORWARD



With our first year behind us, we are excited to move into Year 2. This means engaging with new projects, partners, donors and expanding our reach as a Trust. For our 2020-2021 year we hope to double our fundraising efforts and explore new opportunities for support.

Moving into the new normal for fundraising and project execution will rely on innovation and strengthening partnerships. We hope to explore the support of new projects in more of our interest areas including waste management and renewable energy.



*We look forward to year 2!*





A network of local philanthropic funds focussed on protecting, preserving and restoring the natural environment.

[www.conservation-collective.org](http://www.conservation-collective.org)